

“Peace!”
2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

Introduction:

1. Are You At Peace?
 - Peace Is Something That Everyone Wants, But Few Ever Really Enjoy!
 - We See Very Little Peace In The World!
 - According To The Personnel Journal, “Since the beginning of recorded history, the entire world has been at peace less than eight percent of the time! In its study, the periodical discovered that of 3530 years of recorded history, only 286 years saw peace. Moreover, more than 8000 peace treaties were made—and broken!”
 - We Need Peace!
 - In The World! In Our Workplaces! In Our Churches! In Our Homes! In Our Hearts!
2. This Need For Peace Is Universal!
 - It Affects All People In All Places & At All Times!
 - It Affected The Christians In The Young Church That Paul Helped Plant & Establish In The Worldly City Of Thessalonica!
 - In 1 Thessalonians, We Learned That They Faced Great Opposition & Even Persecution From The Citizens Of Their City – Even The Religious Jews Felt Threatened!
 - And They Needed Peace!
 - In 2 Thessalonians, We Have Seen That They Faced Great Problems Even From Inside Their Own Church!
 - There Were Problems With Doctrine & False Teachers!
 - There Were Problems With Practice & Even Laziness!
 - And They Needed Peace!
 - Problems From The Outside! Problems From The Inside!
 - And Very Little Peace To Be Found!
3. Paul Knew The Only Real Source For Peace!
 - God Himself – “The Lord Of Peace Himself” (3:16)
 - And This Is How He Finishes This Second Letter To This Young, But Growing Church!
 - He Prays That God Himself Would Give Them The Peace That They So Desperately Need!
4. The Peace You Need Will Come From God Alone!
 - It Will Not Come From Arbitration, Or Negotiation, Or Truces, Or Treaties – It Will Come From God Alone!
 - The Peace We Need Comes From:

1. The Power Of God!

- 3:16a - **“Now the Lord of peace himself!”**
- God Is In Control Of Peace!
 - He Is The **Lord** Of Peace! The Master! The Controller!
 - He Can Give Peace!
 - He Can Take Away Peace!
 - Reminds Us Of The Same Lesson The Disciples Of Jesus Learned In Mark 4:35-41 - “And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. / And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. / And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. / And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? / And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. / And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? / And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”
 - “What Manner Of Man Is This?” – He Is The Lord Of Peace!
- God Has The Character Of Peace!
 - He Is The Lord Of **Peace**! The Peaceful, Peace-Loving, Peace-Providing Lord!
 - This Is What He Is Known For!
 - 1 Corinthians 14:33 - “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints!”
 - He Is The Author Of Peace!
 - And Not Only This, He Is Our Peace!

- Ephesians 2:14 - "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us!"
- The Peace You Need Today Comes From: The Power Of God!
 - You May Be In The Most Fearful, Violent Storm Of Your Life – But God Can Say: "Peace Be Still!"
 - And There Can Be "A Great Calm!"

* The Peace We Need Comes By:

2. ***The Present Of God!***

- 3:16b - "Now the Lord of peace himself ***give you peace always by all means!***"
 - It Is A Great Paradox That: Peace In The World Usually Comes Through Conflict!
 - **IE:** The Time During Which Jesus Lived Was Known As The "Pax Romana" – "Roman Peace" – Which Only Came After Rome Had Pretty Much Already Conquered The Known World! But Even Then, There Were Still Rebellions & Military Conflict! This Is Not Real, Lasting Peace!
 - But Paul's Prayer Was That The Lord Would "***Give***" His Peace To His People!
 - Real Peace Cannot Be Obtained By Conflict!
 - Real Peace Can Only Be Obtained When It Is Given To You By The Lord Of Peace Himself!
 - **IE:** When You Need Something, It Is Always Good To Go To The Source To Get It!
 - Need Some Cash – Go To The Bank!
 - Need Some Food – Go To The Grocery Store!
 - Need Some Gas – Go To The Gas Station!
 - Need Peace – Go To God! Because:
- God's Present Of Peace Is Accessible!
 - It Is God's Gift To His People!
 - How Do You Receive The Gift Of His Peace?
 - By Receiving The Gift Of His Son, Jesus Christ!
 - And Both Are Available By Asking Him For Them!
 - You Need Peace?
 - Go To God And Ask Him For Peace – And He Will Give It To You Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And When He Does:
- God's Present Of Peace Is Amazing!
 - God's Gifts Are The Best Gifts!
 - What Is His Peace Like?
 - Philippians 4:7 - "And the peace of God, which ***passeth all understanding***, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus!"
 - It Is Indescribable!
 - And The Fountain Of His Peace Will Never Dry Up!
 - "Always" – "Through All Things!"
 - "By All Means" – "In All Ways!"
 - God's Resources Are Unlimited To Provide The Peace You Need!
- The Peace You Need Comes By: The Present Of God!
 - John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid!"
 - Ask For & Receive The Gift Of God's Peace!

* The Peace We Need Comes Through:

3. ***The Presence Of God!***

- 3:16c - "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. ***The Lord be with you all!***"
 - The Lesson In This Verse Is Clear: ***You Cannot Have The Lord's Peace Without The Lord's Presence!***
 - People Are Seeking Peace In All The Wrong Places!
 - **IE:** Whenever There Is A Problem Between 2 Or More Parties In America, The Motto Seems To Be: "Sue!" The US Has More Lawyers Per Capita Than Any Other Nation On Earth – But Is There Peace? (Sixwise.com)
 - **IE:** The United Nations Was Founded In 1945 With Part Of Its Goal: "To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours!" – But Is There Peace? (Charter)

- Or, What About When You Are Facing Problems In Your Marriage, Your Family, Your Church?
 - ***You Cannot Have The Lord's Peace Without The Lord's Presence!***
 - And Only Through Jesus Christ You Can Enjoy:
- The Promise Of His Presence!
 - Hebrews 13:5 - "For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee!"
 - Matthew 28:20 - "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world!"
 - But There Is Also:
- The Pursuit Of His Presence!
 - The Lord Promises To Be With His People, And Provide His Peace, But There Is Also A Special Presence That You Must Pursue! The Presence Of His Special Fruit & Peace & Blessing!
 - James 4:8-10 - "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. / Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. / Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up!"
- The Peace You Need Comes Through: The Presence Of God!
 - Are You Pursuing After His Presence? Are You Enjoying The Promise Of His Presence? Then You Will Have The Peace From His Presence!

* The Peace We Need Comes From:

4. The Pleasure Of God!

- 3:18 - "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen!"
 - Why Would God Give Peace?
 - It Is Completely Undeserved! Isaiah 48:22 / 57:21 - "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked!"
 - It All Comes Down To Verse 18 – ***It Is Because Of His Grace!*** His Own Pleasure! His Own Nature!
 - "GRACE" – "God's Riches At Christ's Expense!"
- We Are At God's Mercy For Peace!
 - "Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly,--
Wash me, Savior, or I die!" (Rock Of Ages - Toplady)
- He Offers His Own Method For Peace!
 - **IE:** It Isn't Hidden! It Isn't Hard To Reach!
 - "The Grace Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!"

Conclusion:

1. The Apostle Paul Knew That Peace Came Directly From God!
 - So, He Went Directly To God & Prayed For Peace!
2. The Peace You Need / I Need Comes From:
 - God's Power! God's Present! God's Presence! God's Pleasure!
 - So, Why Do We Go Everywhere Else For The Peace We So Desperately Need? Go To God!
3. ***"Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all!" (3:16)***

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